



MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING HELD ON 20th APRIL 2023

Present - Councillors: Peter Groves (Mayor), Andrew Martin (Deputy Mayor), Stuart Bostock, Penny Butterill, David Greaves, Pam Kirkham, Arthur Moran, Mary Slinn, John Statham, Carole Thomas, Stephanie Wedgwood with Samantha Roberts the Town Clerk and Sheryl Birtles the Deputy Clerk.

Also present: 21 members of the public and one member of the press.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were apologies for absence from Councillor David Marren.

2. REPORTS FROM TOWN VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS

- 2.1 John Coulter, one of the directors of the Food Festival informed those at the meeting that the return of the festival in 2022 had caused concerns and the organisation had been worried that it wouldn't be supported, however he reported that it had been the best ever. He said there had been positive feedback and the majority of the exhibitors had already rebooked for 2023. John highlighted that it was a community event and the committee are keen to keep it this way and he thanked the Town Council and sponsors for their ongoing support.
- 2.2 Sarah Johansen, a representative of Sustainable Nantwich gave an update on the developments of the group. She informed Members and residents that at their first meeting over 200 people had turned up and they continue to have the support of many volunteers. She reported that over 20 businesses including Nantwich Town Council has signed up to become plastic free and that the groups work is ongoing on a number of projects including linking in with other groups and organisations in the town.
- 2.3 Dawn Clark, from The Thursday Club reported on the Dementia friendly social club, that takes place on Thursdays at St Mary's. She informed the meeting that they had increased sessions to weekly, the group was expanding into Crewe and that they had also started a young onset group. She commented that the group had received some funding to train more volunteers and the group not only held meet-ups, but also have talks, crafts, outings, etc.
- 2.4 Valarie Byrne, a volunteer at Insights Bereavement reported that the group had started in October 2021 and have since had over 130 referrals. She reported that the group recently moved to the Methodist Church and that the feedback they had been receiving had been very positive. They are looking at hosting a new group for individuals anticipating grief and working with people caring for those with dementia. She thanked the Town Council for their support.
- 2.5 Trevor Evans, chair of Nantwich Museum gave an update. He commented that the museum had welcomed over 20,000 visitors, including 3,500 from local schools and reported that the museum relies on their 80 volunteers for which they are grateful. He continued that they had been re-imaging new displays and looking at new ways to bring people in. He highlighted that they host a number of groups, an exhibition area for local artists and this year are looking forward to hosting a science festival.
- 2.6 Jeff Stubbs Chair of the Nantwich Civic Society and Nantwich Partnership gave updates on both organisations. He commented that the Civic Society had just held their 55th Annual General Meeting, and that they play an important part in keeping the town vibrant and welcoming, and commented that a recent guest speaker had highlighted that improvement should be made heading into town from the station. He commented that they have 55 members but would like to start to attract more.

He reported that the Partnership includes representatives from different organisations in the town and focus on the urban and natural realm, especially focusing on the lake. Over the past year he was pleased to report that they had been key in getting the footpath along Beam Street updated and had paid for a new footpath at Nantwich Lake.

- 2.7 Sue Sherwood, Chair of Nantwich in Bloom, reported that the organisation now has over 30 volunteers whose main focus is the design and maintenance of the town centre's floral beds. They also manage the planters at the railway station, community orchard, an allotment, Lakeside copse, community projects with schools and nursing homes. She reported that they were delighted to win a Best Kept Station Award, and Northwest in Bloom Best Town Award, with a much heavier focus on the environment and sustainability.

3. RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED BY THE PUBLIC

- 3.1 The Town Clerk read a written resolution from a resident who asked with the boundary changes if the Town Council would consider the work that had gone into the Neighbourhood Plan for Acton, Edleston and Henhull, adopting the relevant policies when considering planning applications and use the plan as a baseline should the Town Council adopt a Neighbourhood Plan.
- 3.2 The Town Clerk read a second resolution from a resident who was asking the Council to host a Crowd Funding page, to raise funds for a memorial for Michael Meakin.

4. OPEN FORUM - QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

A resident expressed an interest in cycling and wanted to encourage greener transport and improvements to cycle routes in the town. He invited members, officers and residents to join him on future cycles.

A resident raised concerns about the crossing on Station Road, saying that it was very dangerous, and cars often travel at speed and in fact accidents had already occurred. They also raised concerns of speeding on Park Road and Wellington Road, saying it is very dangerous around school times. The Clerk responded to say that she would report the matters to Cheshire East and would be happy to bring the item forward to the next Council meeting for members to lobby.

The meeting ended at 8pm

Signature: _____

Date: _____